

# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## LINE MARKING

When selecting a linemarking system, the first question to ask is: 'Does the system suit my specific needs and budget?' Peter Bridgewater discusses.

**It is vital that the correct choice is made and, after careful assessment, the final selection is the one that suits your needs and circumstances.**

*Which system to choose, spray or transfer wheel?*

A system that applies paint as a spray through a spray-marking machine, is generally used in a multi pitch situation where speed and the number of pitches marked is preferred to quality of line.

However, with a spray marker, the line usually only has to be marked one way as the spray covers both side of the leaf blade.

*Transfer Wheel markers*

Transfer Wheel markers are probably used more often within the professional sporting ranks where there is more time to mark out a pitch and on which there is a consistent growth of grass to produce a line.

It is also important to achieve a highly visual effect, especially if the game is televised.

Transfer wheel application only coats one side of the leaf blade so a return pass is often required, a practice that take twice the time.

*Paint selection*

When it comes to paint selection, a massive selection is available.

These range from powders that are mixed with water, pre-mixed ready to use liquids and dilutable concentrates.

In addition there is the bag-in-the-box option, which has made such an impact since its launch.

There is also the option of putting down an initial line using a white marking paint containing a dilute amount of glyphosate.

There is only one MAPP approved product Preline, recommended for this purpose.



All the various options have their supporters but there is a cost that must be justified and in this aspect 'You get what you pay for'.

*Cost per pitch*

When it comes to paint selection it is important to consider the cost per pitch of the operation NOT the unit cost of the container.

There will be a paint to suit every need and budget but ask questions, trial the paint and see if it does 'What it says on the tin!' Don't just purchase products because that's what you have always purchased.

*Do the maths*

'Do the maths': Paint with a low unit cost of say 0.39p/litre used neat in a transfer wheel marker on wet muddy pitch will use around 10 litres at a cost of £3.90.

This however is not the true cost as by using a lower quality paint the pitch will probably have to be marked twice doubling the costs.

*Economical Option*

A paint with better quality ingredients, which will obviously have a higher unit cost of £1.60/litre diluted in water at, say, 4 part water to 1 paint mix (5 litres in total) will be just as economical as when applying 10 litres the actual cost of marking the pitch would be just £3.20.

*Presentation:*

From the professional turf professional to an enthusiastic amateur volunteer, pitch presentation is everything. The linemarking operation should produce the whitest, straightest lines that budget and time will allow.

**For further information contact Rigby Taylor Ltd  
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